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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO KFLU ECON PREL SOCI CASC EAGR MX GM
SUBJECT: GERMANY H1N1 FLU UPDATE: 527 CONFIRMED CASES

REF: A) Berlin 808, B) Berlin 795 and previous.

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The net number of H1N1 infections in Germany rose by 57 cases over the weekend to a total of 527 on July 6. We are hearing our first reports of Amcits infections in Germany. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (SBU) The National Reference Center for Influenza at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) announced in its press briefings over the weekend a total of 61 new laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1, and subtracted four previously confirmed cases. This net increase of fifty-seven cases brings the total number of virus cases in Germany to 527. Four H1N1 infections previously confirmed in the states of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Bavaria were rescinded.

New Infections in Berlin involving Amcits

¶3. (SBU) On July 6, RKI confirmed H1N1 in one 17-year old German girl and three US students from Texas, who are currently on an exchange program at the Alexander-von-Humboldt Gymnasium in Koepenick (Berlin). This raises the total number of confirmed infections in the city to nine. The students first showed flu-like symptoms on July 2. They were sent home and treated with the antiviral medication, Tamiflu. Media reports indicate that the US students caught the flu in Germany. They were reportedly scheduled to return to the US this weekend, but their travel has been postponed until further notice.

¶4. (SBU) Berlin health authorities also reported on July 6 that an additional four students from the same high school are infected with the new flu. These cases have not yet been confirmed by RKI. All students are under quarantine at home and are being treated with Tamiflu. After meeting with doctors and school leaders, Berlin health officials reportedly decided to temporarily close the school as a precautionary measure. Parents were informed about the measures in a letter published on the website of the school, which has approximately 660 pupils. Berlin health officials expect further virus cases.

15. (SBU) The Mission Consular Section is actively following up on reports of further H1N1 infections in Germany involving Amcits. A group of 50 students is reportedly quarantined in a hotel in Heidelberg because five of them were tested positive for H1N1. Of that group, two are reportedly showing symptoms. German authorities believe that the group will be able to start their European tour up again in a week, assuming everyone tests negative. In addition, some Amcit students traveling with a tour group to Ludwigshafen have reportedly also been tested positive for the new flu. The students are currently under quarantine at their hotel.

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